

**New Program Proposal  
Ph.D. in International Family and Community Studies  
Clemson University**

**Summary**

Clemson University requests approval to offer a program leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree in International Family and Community Studies, to be implemented in January 2006.

The proposal was approved by the Clemson University Board of Trustees on April 25, 2003, and submitted for Commission review on April 27, 2005. The proposal was reviewed without substantive comment and voted upon favorably by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs at its meeting on July 14, 2005.

The purpose of the program is to educate professionals to generate, diffuse and apply knowledge needed to strengthen communities' capacity for family support, meaningful participation, and strong relationships, including mutual assistance. Graduates of the program will serve primarily in academic areas related to child and family studies, community development, social policy studies and international studies, or as planners, researchers, or administrators in non-governmental organizations and government agencies.

The international focus of this program, including agreements with related programs in Central Europe, Asia, South Africa, India and the Caribbean, supports Clemson's goal of increasing international scholarship. The University, through its Institute on Families and Neighborhood Life (IFNL), is the lead institution of the Global Network for Family and Community Studies (GNFCS). The seven international partner institutions for the proposed program—the Centre for Family Environments (Czech Republic), Ibero-American University (Dominican Republic), University of Tallin (Estonia), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (India), University of the Free State (South Africa) University of the Western Cape (South Africa), and Mahidol University (Thailand)—are members of the GNFCS. At staff's request, Clemson submitted detailed information on each of the institutions that are partners in the proposed program. The institutions are all major institutions in their countries, have related programs or Centers, and will contribute to the success of the program and the internship experience of the graduates. In the same document, Clemson states that the program will have

benefits for Clemson students not in the program in that it will allow access to coursework and international contacts that would otherwise not be available to them.

Based on current experience with the IFNL, Clemson estimates that the program faculty will bring in approximately six dollars through grants and contracts for every dollar of University funding provided. The University also states in a supplemental document that, although the proposed program has an international focus, there will be a local benefit through the sharing of faculty expertise and grant experience with communities around the state, thus contributing to the quality of life in those communities. One example given in the supplemental document states that one IFNL contract has provided 1395 hours of technical assistance to 112 community agencies across the state since 2002. The document also states that IFNL faculty members have worked with community groups to write grants for funding that goes directly to the groups and thus is an indirect means to bring community grant funds into the state.

The proposed degree program is unique within the state and the nation. The proposal states that the program will be offered through the IFNL and that it will draw on a number of related areas (e.g., social sciences, planning, health, education) within the institution for collaboration in service, research and teaching.

The proposed program will not be subject to accreditation by a professional association, but it will be assessed as part of the Southern Association of Colleges of Schools (SACS) review process.

In January 2004, the proposed program was reviewed by Dr. Janis Jacobs at The Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Jacobs, who is the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and International Studies and a professor in Human Development and Family Studies, was highly positive in her remarks about the concept of the program and its implementation. She sees the program as a natural direction for the IFNL and a complement to Clemson's goals and programs. The two suggestions for change that she did make (that there be an end-of-program capstone course and that an "e-learning" course be a part of the internship) were both addressed positively in the program proposal. Dr. Jacobs also complimented Clemson's foresight in proposing this program.

The proposal states that enrollment will start at eight students (8 FTE) in Fall 2005, but the schedule has been modified due to the submission date of the proposal, which makes it impossible to recruit a Fall class. The new requested start date is January 2006, which will allow eight students (8 FTE) to begin in the Spring 2006 session. Enrollment is projected to grow to 16 students (16 FTE) in

Fall 2006, and to 24 students (24 FTE) in Fall 2007, at which time it will hold steady. The proposal states that half of each cohort will be international students. If enrollment projections are met, the program will meet the Commission's productivity standards.

The proposed program will require a minimum (not maximum as stated in the proposal) of 90 credit hours of graduate coursework for those enrolling post-baccalaureate, including: 12 credit hours in Family and Community Life, 18 credit hours in Cultural Studies, 15 credit hours in Community Development and Policy Analysis, 12 credit hours in Research Methods, and up to 24 credit hours in Research. In addition, the program requires a one-year international internship to be served at one of the seven affiliated centers. Students entering the program post-masters will require a minimum of 36 credit hours of graduate coursework, with actual courses taken dependent on their master's level coursework. The proposed program of study will add twelve new courses to the Clemson catalogue of courses, all with the FCS (Family and Community Studies) prefix.

Faculty for the program will consist of seven existing faculty from the IFNL (1.625 FTE), a professor emeritus who will join the faculty in 2006 (.125 FTE), four grant-supported faculty, and a visiting scholar from one of the partner institutions (in annual rotation). The proposal notes that all hold doctoral-level degrees in related fields, including program-related areas as diverse as law, social work, and nursing. There will be only one new faculty position added (.125 FTE) and no new administrator or staff positions, although portions of existing administrator's time (.3 FTE) will be assigned to the program.

The proposal states that the Poole Agriculture Center has sufficient office and classroom space to house the new program. In addition, the existing classroom technology, faculty computers, and presentation technology are adequate, with no new purchases required in these areas.

The proposal also anticipates a need to expand library holdings in the areas of international family studies, cross-cultural issues, and non-profit management. The need to expand holdings in these areas is largely a result of Clemson's own evaluation of its holdings since, due to the unique nature of the program, there are no peers for comparison. The budget reflects an annual estimate of \$5,000 over five years for new library resources, totaling \$25,000 by the end of year five.

New costs for the program are estimated to begin at \$300,569 in the first year, increasing to \$545,563 in the second year, \$712,488 in the third year, \$740,453 in the fourth year, and \$763,636 in the fifth year. Categories of costs over the first five years of the program's implementation include program administration (\$220,062), faculty salaries (\$939,412), graduate assistants

(\$1,617,576), clerical and support personnel (\$35,659); library resources (\$25,000), equipment (\$10,000) and other operating expenses (\$10,000). Total estimated new costs for the program during the first five years will be \$3,062,709.

Shown below are the estimated Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) costs to the state and new costs not funded by the MRR associated with implementation of the proposed program for its first five years. Also shown are the estimated revenues projected under the MRR and the Resource Allocation Plan as well as student tuition.

Year	Estimated MRR Cost for Proposed Program	Extraordinary (Non-MRR) Costs for Proposed Program	Total Costs	State Appropriation	Tuition	Total Revenue
Year 1	\$455,701		<b>\$455,701</b>	\$0	\$165,024	<b>\$165,024</b>
Year 2	\$683,552		<b>\$683,552</b>	93,185	\$247,075	<b>\$340,260</b>
Year 3	\$683,552		<b>\$683,552</b>	139,077	\$247,075	<b>\$386,152</b>
Year 4	\$683,552		<b>\$683,552</b>	139,077	\$247,075	<b>\$386,152</b>
Year 5	\$683,552		<b>\$683,552</b>	139,077	\$247,075	<b>\$386,152</b>

These data demonstrate that if the institution meets the projected student enrollments and contains costs as they are shown in the proposal, the program will not be able to cover costs during each of its first five years. However, it should be noted that the proposal states that over the first five years of the program a total of \$972,878 will be reallocated to the program from existing funds and that \$4,764,033 will be generated through external sources such as research and service grants and contracts. Thus, the institution expects that the program will ultimately generate revenue and pay its own way through its grant and contract activities.

In summary, Clemson University proposes to offer a program leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree in International Family and Community Studies. The program will be offered through the Institute for Family and Neighborhood Life, will have strong international partnerships, and will prepare students for either advanced scholarship in the field or for employment as researchers, planners, or administrators in a wide range of international governmental and non-governmental agencies dealing with children, families, and communities.

### **Recommendation**

The staff recommends that the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commend favorably to the Commission approval of the program at Clemson University leading to the Doctor of Philosophy degree in International Family and Community Studies, to be implemented in January 2006, provided that no “unique cost” or other special state funding be required or requested, and provided further that no international internship credit hours be used in the calculation of the MRR.